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STATED MEETING, JULY 6, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Fifth Geological Report of the State of Tennessee. By G. Troost, M. D. 8vo. From the Author.

Documents relating to the Geological Survey of New York. (No. 150.) 8vo. 1841. From Mr. Vanuxem.

Etwas uber die Natur-Wunder in Nord America. Von Charles Cramer. 8vo. St. Petersburg, 1841. From the Author.

Description of an entire Head and other bones of the Mastodon. By W. E. Horner, M. D., and I. Hays, M. D. 4to. Philad. 1841. From the Authors.

Annales des Mines. Tome XVII. Received in exchange.

The Silurian System; from the Edinburgh Review; April, 1841. From the Author. (Anon.)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Mr. Benjamin Silliman, Jr., acknowledging the receipt of a letter announcing his election as a corresponding member.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Dr. Morton (Prof. Johnson taking the chair,) made the following communication.

“I submit to the inspection of the members eight skulls of the ancient Mexican race, for six of which I am indebted to Don J. Gomez de la Cortina, and for the other two to Dr. John P. Macartney of the city of Mexico. All these crania have been received since the publication of my *Crania Americana*.

The skulls are of the following nations.

1. OTOMIES.—Four in number, with the high vertex, flat occiput,

great lateral diameter and broad faces, characteristic of the American race. The Ottomies preceded the Toltecas, and were the least cultivated of the demi-civilized nations of Anahuac. The largest of these heads gives 92 cubic inches of internal capacity; the smallest, that of a female, only 67.

2. **CHECHEMECAN.**—A single skull, of 83 cubic inches of internal capacity. This nation followed the Toltecas in the possession of Mexico in the 11th century of our era. They were nomades and hunters, but rapidly acquired the arts and civilization of their predecessors.

3. **TLASCALAN.**—A single cranium. These people formed one of the seven tribes who established themselves in Mexico during the Chechemecan monarchy, and are renowned in history for their warlike exploits. They are well known to have rendered Cortez essential aid in taking the city of Mexico. This skull gives an internal capacity of 84 cubic inches, and like the others of this series, is remarkable for its diameter between the parietal bones.

It is worthy of remark that the average internal capacity of these six authentic Mexican skulls, is precisely what I have accorded to these people in my *Crania Americana*, viz. seventy-nine cubic inches. The mean of the facial angle also accords with my previous measurements, and gives 75° .

All these heads were obtained from tumuli or mounds, within the territories of the nations whose names they bear, so as to leave no doubt in the mind of the distinguished gentleman from whom I received them, of their having pertained to individuals of those nations.

The two remaining crania are supposed to be those of **AZTECKS**, who also belonged to the confederacy of the seven tribes, but were the last to take possession. These were the people who subsequently obtained the supreme power, and under the name of Aztecs or Mexicans, governed the country at the epoch of the Spanish invasion, A. D. 1521. The Aztecs were a brave and intelligent people, but remarkable for bloody rites, both in their warlike and religious observances. They were less cultivated than the Toltecas, but

much more so than the surrounding barbarous tribes; and appear, in fact, to have been the connecting link between the two. The largest of these heads gives 85 cubic inches of internal capacity; the smallest 77; the medium being 80 cubic inches. The configuration of these heads is on the same model as the preceding series, and the mean facial angle differs but a single degree.

Whoever will be at the pains to compare this series of skulls with those from the barbarous tribes, will, I think, agree that the facts thus derived from organic characters, corroborate the position I have long maintained, that all the American nations, excepting the polar tribes, are of one race and one species, but of two great families, which resemble each other in physical but differ in intellectual character."

STATED MEETING, JULY, 13, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

The following species of shells were presented by Mrs. L. W. Say, through Mr. Phillips, viz:

Melania nupera, *M. subglobosa*, *M. isogona*, *M. exilis*, *M. undulata*, *M. armigera*, *M. conica*, *M. acuta*. *Anculotus concolor*, *A. costatus*, *A. Kirklandianus*, *A. carinatus*, *Physa Sayii*. Very fine specimens, chiefly from the Wabash.

Chiton ——. new species? from Chapman's Island, Pacific Ocean.—From Dr. Ruschenberger.